STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

MELVIN KENDZIORSKI, Plaintiff,

VS.

Civil Action File No. 2005-064008-NO

COLLEEN A. O'BRIEN, INDIANA PACERS, an assumed name for PACERS BASKETBALL CORPORATION, an Indiana corporation; JERMAINE O'NEAL, an Indiana resident; JAMAAL TINSLEY, an Indiana resident; and JOHN GREEN, a Michigan resident, jointly and severally,

Defendants.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

CHARLES HADDAD, Plaintiff,

VS.

INDIANA PACERS, an assumed name, a/k/a PACERS BASKETBALL CORPORATION, an Indiana corporation, JERMAINE O'NEAL and ANTHONY JOHNSON, Jointly and Severally, Defendants.

Civil Action File No. 04-CV74932

Hon. Anna Diggs Taylor Mag. Judge Donald A. Scheer



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STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

JOHN F. ACKERMAN, JR., Plaintiff,

VS.

Case No. 04-062545 NO

INDIANA PACERS, an assumed name for PACERS BASKETBALL CORPORATION, an Indiana Corporation, RON ARTEST, STEPHEN JACKSON, JERMAINE O'NEAL, DAVID HARRISON and THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS, an assumed name for PALACE SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT, INC., Jointly and Severally, Defendants.

Hon. D Langford-Morris

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

ANTHONY MARK JOHNSON

January 26, 2006 8:00 a.m.

125 South Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, Indiana

Blanche J. Harris, CCR No. B-2290



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1		1	
	17		19
1	A. Not really. No.	1	Q. Fair enough. Was it in a soft
2	Q. My understanding is that you had	2	cast that evening?
3	the misfortune of having a bad hand at the	3	A. Yes.
4	time of this game?	4	Q. When you looked at the video,
5	A. Yes.	5	could you see the soft cast on your hand?
6	Q. Tell us how that came about and	6	A. I wasn't aware of it.
7	what the nature of the injury was.	7	Q. Who was the captain that evening?
8	A. In the pre-season, I played a game	8	Who were the captains of the Pacers at that
9	against the Memphis Grizzlies, and I was	9	time?
10	defending a guy, and basically broke the	10	A. At that time, we had three
11	fourth metacarpal in my right hand.	11	captains: Ron Artest, Reggie Miller and
12	Q. And was it casted?	12	Jermaine O'Neal.
13	A. It had a soft cast on it.	13	Q. What was the committee?
14	Q. No pins or anything?	14	A. We had a separate committee, as
15	A. No.	15	far as different guys that handled issues as
16	Q. And what stage of the healing was	16	it relates to our ball club and things being
17	it on the evening of the problem at The	17	decided.
18	Palace?	18	Q. Have you ever given a deposition
19	A. After I had the injury, I was	19	before? This is a deposition, like this.
20	basically out for four weeks. So I would	20	A. No.
21	say that was probably in the second week of	21	Q. Had you seen the complaint that
22	being out four weeks.	22	was shown to you today, before today?
23	-	23	A. I saw it last night.
24	, , ,	24	· ·
25	the next few days after this particular	25	
2.3	evening?	23	A. Basically, yes.
	18		20
1	A. No.	1	Q. Let's go through your memory. I'm
		1	
2	 Q. And would you sit in your city 	2	going to ask you to try to do your best what
2	clothes or street clothes at each game,	1	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you
	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening?	2 3 4	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my
3	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes.	2 3	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess
3 4	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice?	2 3 4 5 6	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference;
3 4 5 6 7	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay?
3 4 5 6	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference;
3 4 5 6 7 8	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course?	2 3 4 5 6 7	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay?
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes. Q. Did you have any role whatsoever	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember being at the game?
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember being at the game? A. Yes.
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes. Q. Did you have any role whatsoever while you were on the bench, in terms of the game itself? A. Just supporting my teammates. Q. Shouting and screaming and usual	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember being at the game? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember before the
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes. Q. Did you have any role whatsoever while you were on the bench, in terms of the game itself? A. Just supporting my teammates. Q. Shouting and screaming and usual stuff? A. Yes. Q. But you had no you didn't guide anybody, you didn't conference with anybody, you didn't strategize with anybody?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember being at the game? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember before the Artest/Wallace confrontation, anything out of the ordinary? A. No. Q. Another ball game? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember who was winning? A. Yes.
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	clothes or street clothes at each game, dressed as you were that evening? A. Yes. Q. That was your practice? A. Yes. Q. And you have rights to sit on the bench, of course? A. Yes. Q. Did you have any role whatsoever while you were on the bench, in terms of the game itself? A. Just supporting my teammates. Q. Shouting and screaming and usual stuff? A. Yes. Q. But you had no you didn't guide anybody, you didn't conference with anybody, you didn't strategize with anybody? A. Me being part of the team, I am in on, you know, the strategy that we set	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	going to ask you to try to do your best what you remember as distinguished and what you saw in the video. All the rest of my questions are your best memory. Don't guess and don't use the video as your reference; okay? Your memory of that night; okay? Am I clear, that's all I'm asking you? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember being at the game? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember before the Artest/Wallace confrontation, anything out of the ordinary? A. No. Q. Another ball game? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember who was winning? A. Yes. Q. Do you remember who was winning? A. Yes. Q. By how much when Wallace and Artest



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25	27
in the locker room, When did you first hear	1 Q. They like the Pistons?
2 about that?	2 A. That could be it.
3 A. Probably at the tail end of the	3 Q. We do, you know?
4 melee.	4 And could you even number the
5 Q. Did you notice anything did you	5 number of fans that were on the floor as you
6 see Mr. Artest come back from what we now	6 were looking at all this?
7 know as the stands on to the floor?	7 A. I cannot number it. But I knew
8 A. I kind of caught a view of him	8 it was enough to make me and my teammates
9 out of my peripheral vision.	9 uncomfortable.
10 Q. And was there a game still going	10 Q. What did you do when you saw the
on, or was the game over, for all practical	fans coming onto the floor and Mr. Artest
I	going by?
1 ' '	13 A. When I saw fans jumping over the
13 A. There was still time remaining on	bench area, I saw guys with Piston uniforms
the clock. So I would say that the game was	and objects in their hands. And I saw guys
still going on.	
Q. But from a practical purpose, was	
it ever played again; anymore played that	arm in the air attempting to strike Mr.
18 night?	18 Artest
19 A. No.	Q. Stop right there. That gentleman,
Q. The did you see fans coming	20 I think everyone would agree, had a hat on;
21 onto the floor?	do you remember?
22 A. Yes. Definitely.	22 A. I'm not sure.
23 Q. Many?	Q. Did he have anything in his hand
24 A. It was yes. It was a lot.	that you could identify as to what it is?
25 It was total chaos. And once they started	25 A. A white bag.
26	28
1 coming on the court, I was afraid for my	1 Q. A what kind of bag?
2 safety and for the safety of my teammates and	2 A. He had a white bag in one hand.
people associated with the Pacers organization.	3 Q. In color, white?
4 Q. And I gather and in all	4 A. Yes.
5 fairness, I don't think there's much issue	5 Q. Do you know what kind of bag?
6 that your team, as well as any other team,	6 A. No .
7 there is a camaraderie and a protect each	7 Q. And how far away were you from
8 other attitude that prevails throughout being	8 these two persons, Artest and the man with
9 part of the team; is that correct?	9 the white bag in his hand?
10 A. Definitely. I think due to the	10 A. Probably 10 feet.
11 fact that we spend a lot of time together,	11 Q. If we are looking at the video
there is a family atmosphere surrounding our	camera at the other end of this table, how
13 team.	13 close to that video camera would you have
14 Q. And when you're visiting another	been to Mr. Artest? Halfway down this table?
town, they're never on your side, are they?	15 All the way down there?
16 A. More times than not, no.	16 A. I would probably say three
17 Q. It can be, at least verbally, a	17 quarters.
hostile atmosphere in visiting towns?	18 Q. And that's what you estimate is
19 A. Yes. Definitely.	19 about 10 feet?
Q. But it goes with the game. People	20 A. Yes.
get excited; the fans get excited?	Q. Do you know how long the court is?
A. I would say they get more excited	A. The playing surface is 94 feet.
in Detroit than other places.	23 Q. And width?
24 Q. More drinking there?	24 A. I don't know that.
25 A. For whatever reason.	25 Q. Where was the players' bench that



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1	29	31	
1	you were located at on that floor in	1 Shackelford and one was Haddad, have you e	ver
2	relationship to the 94 feet? Where would you	2 heard these names before?	
3	describe it?	3 A. I saw those names in the	
4	A. Probably at the tail end of one	4 complaint.	
5	side of the court. So	5 Q. But before that?	
6	Q. First 20 feet of the court?	6 A. No.	
7	A. Yeah.	7 Q. Do you know anything about their	
8	Q. When you saw this man going	8 background, history, or what they were doing	
9	towards Mr. Artest with his hand up, what did	9 there that night?	
10	you do?	10 A. No .	
11	 A. Due to the fact that it was 	11 Q. All right. In trying to help Mr.	
12	another guy attempting to tackle Mr. Artest,	12 Artest, what did you do to help him?	
13	you know, it was two guys attacking my	13 A. Due to the fact that I had a	
14	teammate, and due to the fact that I was	broken hand, I made an effort to subdue one	
15	afraid for my safety and afraid for his	of the guys that was on the ground.	
16	safety, I made an effort to made an	16 Q. And what did you do physically?	
17	effort to make sure that he was okay.	Just describe your actions.	
18	 Q. Now, do you know which of the two 	18 A. Well, due to the fact that it was	
19	persons first engaged with Mr. Artest, the	a lot of liquid substance on the court, l	
20	guy with the hat and the white bag or the	20 slipped, and it basically amounted to me	
21	other guy?	falling on top of one of the guys.	
22	A. I do not know.	22 Q. That was not your plan?	
23	 Q. But you definitely saw the man 	23 A. It was	
24	with the white bag making some physical	Q. You didn't do that intentionally?	
25	A. I saw two men.	25 A. It was my plan to subdue one of	
	30	32	
		i a constant a constan	
1	Q. Do you know at what stage the	1 the guys.	
1 2	Q. Do you know at what stage the other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who	the guys. Q. Is that the first physical contact	
		- ·	
2	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who	2 Q. Is that the first physical contact	
2 3	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first?	Q. Is that the first physical contact you had with that guy that you fell on?	
2 3 4	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first? A. Say that again. Q. Who of the two started it first? A. Due to the fact that it was so	2 Q. Is that the first physical contact 3 you had with that guy that you fell on? 4 A. Yeah. That was the first contact	
2 3 4 5 6 7	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first? A. Say that again. Q. Who of the two started it first? A. Due to the fact that it was so much chaos and it was a lot going on and I	Q. Is that the first physical contact you had with that guy that you fell on? A. Yeah. That was the first contact I had with anyone. Q. And that was literally falling on somebody?	
2 3 4 5 6	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first? A. Say that again. Q. Who of the two started it first? A. Due to the fact that it was so much chaos and it was a lot going on and I was afraid for my safety, everything was	Q. Is that the first physical contact you had with that guy that you fell on? A. Yeah. That was the first contact I had with anyone. Q. And that was literally falling on somebody? A. Yes. Because I had on dress show	S
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first? A. Say that again. Q. Who of the two started it first? A. Due to the fact that it was so much chaos and it was a lot going on and I was afraid for my safety, everything was moving fast. So I just saw two guys	Q. Is that the first physical contact you had with that guy that you fell on? A. Yeah. That was the first contact I had with anyone. Q. And that was literally falling on somebody? A. Yes. Because I had on dress show and I slipped.	s
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	other man put his hands on Mr. Artest? Who came first? A. Say that again. Q. Who of the two started it first? A. Due to the fact that it was so much chaos and it was a lot going on and I was afraid for my safety, everything was moving fast. So I just saw two guys simultaneously making an effort to do Mr.	Q. Is that the first physical contact you had with that guy that you fell on? A. Yeah. That was the first contact I had with anyone. Q. And that was literally falling on somebody? A. Yes. Because I had on dress show and I slipped. Q. And once you were on top of him,	
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ĺ	33	35
1	A. Yes.	1 the scene and the action?
2	Q. Did you hit him anywhere in the	2 A. I did not see that.
3	body?	3 Q. Did you when did you next see
4	A. No.	4 Mr. Jermaine O'Neal?
5	Q. When you fell on him, what part of	5 A. In the locker room.
6	your body fell on that person?	6 Q. When did you next see Mr. Ron
7	A. Basically, it was more like my	7 Artest?
8	forearm and I guess my upper torso maybe	8 A. In the locker room.
9	falling on the top of his back.	9 Q. You were at a
10	Q. So he was face down	10 MR. CHARFOOS: Off the record for
11	A. He was	11 a moment, please.
12	Q as it turned out?	12 VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the video
13	A. He wasn't face down. He was on	13 record at 8:30.
14	fours, attempting to get up.	14 (A recess was taken.)
15	Q. But his back was to you?	15 Q. (By Mr. Charfoos) Did you ever
16	A. No. His back was not to me.	agree in a sworn statement that you had
17	Q. What did you fall on, then?	17 strike that.
18	A. I fall on more his shoulder area.	18 You gave no bodily blow to the
19	Q. Other than using his hands to try	person underneath to, you his head in any
20	to get up, was he doing anything else at	20 way, form or manner; may we say that for
21	that time?	21 sure?
22	A. Due to the fact it was a lot of	22 A. Yes.
23	chaos, and I felt threatened, and I felt like	Q. Did you even know how tall or how
24	my teammates were being threatened, it looked	24 heavy he was?
25	like he made an effort to do bodily harm to	25 A. No.
	34	36
1	my teammate.	1 MR. CHARFOOS: Off the record.
2	Q. But not to you?	2 VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at
3	A. Not to me.	3 8:31.
4	Q. And somebody pulled you off,	4 (A recess was taken.)
5	actually, didn't they?	5 VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 8:33.
6	A. I really don't remember that.	6 We're back on the video record.
7	Q. You do remember getting up?	7 Q. (By Mr. Charfoos) In the area
8	A. Yes.	8 where you, Mr. Artest were when you slipped
9	Q. And you know what he did next?	9 and fell, did you see the color of the
10	A. No.	jerseys of the persons that were helping you
11	MR. LEITMAN: Who's he?	11 get up?
12	MR. CHARFOOS: The one he was	12 A. No.
13	laying on.	13 Q. Did you see any red or blue
14	THE WITNESS: No.	jerseys around you, around Mr. Artest, or
15	Q. (By Mr. Charfoos) You didn't see	around the two fans that you've spoken about?
16	him after that?	16 A. No.
17	A. No.	MR. POTTER: Mr. Charfoos, by
18	Q. Do you know what happened to the	jerseys, do you mean a shirt?
19	gentleman with the white bag in his hand?	19 MR. CHARFOOS: Yeah, red or blue
20	A. No.	20 shirt.
21	Q. Did you have see what Mr.	21 THE WITNESS: No.
22	Artest did once you fell on this other	Q. (By Mr. Charfoos) Like security
23	fellow?	designation or service area designation?
24	A. No.	24 A. No. 25 MR. CHARFOOS: I have no further
25	 Q. Did you see Mr. O'Neal come into 	



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